

Proposal Title	Social and Economic Reintegration of Returned Migrants in Tajikistan
Reserve Fund	Eurasia Reserves
Amount Requested	US\$ 230,000
Unforeseen Need (250 words)	<p>Tajikistan's reliance on large-scale migration is well-known, and encouraged by the Government of Tajikistan (GoT) as an antidote to unemployment at home, but the massive influx of migrants due to tightening of migration laws and economic downturn in Russia is challenging Tajikistan's current economic "model." A second wave of economic decline in late August/early September 2015 is compounding existing problems. Tajikistan faces a significant increase in poverty, unrest, domestic violence, and general crime.</p> <p>Despite GoT and donor's acknowledgement and encouragement of migration as a key component of the country's economic survival, there has been historical reluctance to address consequences of this dependency in national development programs or donor supported projects. The current crisis, however, provides both an unforeseen need/opportunity, in that GoT seeks assistance in tackling problems that come with migration.</p> <p>GoT and donors are concerned about consequences of the return of migrants, but policy solutions and support are slow to start. Tajikistan lacks key elements of a system for reintegration - there is no dynamic or centralized data on returned migrants, no standardized practice for skills formalization, no provision of medical screenings, or job matching for returnees.</p> <p>OSIAF can play an "early investor" role in helping the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Migration develop a cost-effective model which is transparent and fair, includes fundamental protections for privacy, and addresses particular needs of vulnerable returnees. The Foundation will address this issue in their upcoming strategy under Economic Empowerment priority, but this funding will get the work off the ground immediately.</p>
Activities	Following further consultation with OSF colleagues, other

<p>Proposed (500 words)</p>	<p>donors, and the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment (MoLME), OSIAF has streamlined its program to address immediate issues not being tackled by other donors. It will focus on three main objectives to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) build the capacity of the MoLME's Migrant Adaptation Center (MAC) to provide integrated referrals to and information about existing services and jobs; 2) strengthen engagement of NGOs in facilitating access to services for returned migrants in coordination with MAC's regional representations; 3) create self-employment for returned migrants through development of a network of business facilitating NGOs. <p>Under <i>Objective One</i>, OSIAF will work with MoLME to design an integrated program of services for returned migrants that draws on existing resources and tools. Technology partners will develop a web-based platform for returned migrants and other job-seekers, which will provide comprehensive information about existing services while expanding their accessibility. OSIAF will select a few areas to build upon -first, in tracking returned migrants by allowing them to register profiles, skills and job interest; and, second, in developing a job search platform that would link to employers. The availability of this information will provide a valuable and up-to-date resource for donors and state agencies planning new investments in skills development and certification for returned migrants.</p> <p>Under <i>Objective Two</i>, OSIAF will work to build cooperation between CSOs and MACs, particularly on outreach and referrals to services. Civil society support to migrants in past years focused primarily on preparation of outgoing migrants, rather than reintegration of returnees. With the bleak economic prognosis of Russia and the growing number of Tajikistani citizens with entry-bans, it is vital that NGOs, especially those in the regions, develop a new skill set to assist returning migrants in their reintegration. NGOs around Tajikistan provide a range of services, but often in a piecemeal and uncoordinated way. OSIAF will work to identify and engage NGOs with various specialties in joint outreach activities with MAC's regional representations, as a means to raise</p>
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	<p>awareness about availability of services and enhance returning migrants' access to them. OSI AF will give small grants to NGOs to pilot regional coordination mechanisms together with the MAC.</p> <p>Under <i>Objective Three</i>, OSI AF will continue and expand upon its experience in business facilitation and micro-lending to business start-ups under OSI AF's guarantees. Donors agree that creating jobs and economic opportunity in Tajikistan are the main priority for responses to economic crisis and returning migrants, yet they are slow to innovate and move beyond formalistic regulatory change. This project will aim to demonstrate potential of civil society in facilitating business development through business plan consultations for returned migrants. Evaluation of business plans by independent experts assures their quality; and, best business plans are recommended to microfinance organizations for funding.</p> <p>Activities under objectives one and two are designed to establish an infrastructure to support returned migrants that can be continued with OSI AF's minimal investment in the future. Targeted efforts will be made to engage other donors in the process, to ensure that coordination mechanisms can be sustained.</p>
Summary for Board Reports (100 words)	<p>Tajikistan's economy relies on labor migration, but economic downturn in Russia and harsh enforcement practices have increased the number of returned migrants to Tajikistan. This project aims to facilitate reintegration of returned labor migrants by improving access to services. OSI AF and Tajikistan's Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment, will work with other state agencies, civil society, and donors to develop a unified referral system for returned migrants to be coordinated through the Ministry's Migrant Adaptation Center. The project will also expand OSI AF's work on business facilitation to create self-employment opportunities for returned migrants. The project will seed ideas that can be taken over by other donors and development actors.</p>
Collaborating Programs within OSF and essential partners or	<p>OSF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . OSF International Migration Initiative . OSF Eurasia Program

<p>grantees</p>	<p>Tajikistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Migration Service of the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of Tajikistan <p>Donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Asian Development Bank would contribute funds for secondary professional education system and development of occupational standards of 17 occupations . World Bank will contribute in skills certification and high professional education <p>Civil Society and Other Local Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Public Fund Civil Internet Policy Initiative . Public Organization MATEMA . Public Fund Internet . OO Gamkhori . Association Surkhob . Human Rights Center Khujand . National Association of Nurses . Center for Progressive Technologies in Education . Public Organization Economy and Education . Association of Critical Thinking of Tajikistan . Information Research Center "SOCSERVICE"
<p>Contributions expected from Collaborating Programs (250 words)</p>	<p>Migration Service of the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of Tajikistan will provide the premises and staff at the newly created Migrant Adaptation Center in Dushanbe to implement the project.</p> <p>OSF International Migration Initiative will provide consultation on all aspects of the project, including ensuring it protects basic rights and builds on successful models and practices elsewhere, using its network of international researchers, consultants and organizations. Anna Crowley of IMI edited and approved this proposal.</p> <p>OSF Eurasia Program will be engaged in monitoring and evaluation, as well as in liaison with international donors and partners with whom they are in contact.</p> <p>Asian Development Bank intends to make investment in</p>

	<p>improving services and skills training by vocational schools. Returned migrants who are seeking new professional skills would receive the referral from the Migrant Adaptation Center to such new skills trainings.</p> <p>World Bank intends to contribute in professional education system and employer needs assessments, which would be the important contribution to the migrant reintegration program.</p> <p>Tajikistan NGOs will be engaged in providing services on health screening, professional skills development, legal protection, and informational systems development. OSI AF will be working with local microfinance organizations and business facilitating NGOs on business skills development, business plan evaluation and loan management. A network of local NGOs would be trained on servicing, along with the Migrant Adaptation Center, the returned migrants depending on their local needs.</p>
Statement of who within OSF would guide the work	OSIAF Tajikistan staff, led by Ilhom Abdulloev.

Allocator (See list on Reserve Funds KARL)	Name	Pierre Mirabaud
	Date Approved	1/20/2016
Allocator Notes / Comments (To be completed by allocator only)	(Notes/Comments - Optional field)	
	(Criteria checklist) <input type="checkbox"/> Is this an <u>unforeseen</u> opportunity or a genuinely new idea to advance core open society commitments? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the need time-sensitive? <input type="checkbox"/> Are we proposing to do something that others are not doing? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the plan compelling? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the planned activity take good advantage of OSF capacity? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the team leading the work up to the task?	
Urgency level for grant approval & payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Rapid Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Rapid Response (See procedure on KARL)
If approved, where to allocate the	Amount	230,000 USD
	Category of Work	FGG003
	Division/Program Code	66325
	Entity (i.e., FPOS, ZUG)	OSI AF

budget? <i>(If the budget is split between multiple programs,</i>	Fund Class <i>(i.e., Lobbying/Non-Lobbying)</i>	Non-Lobbying
	Geography <i>(of benefit)</i>	TAJF